



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Re-Envisioning Juvenile Justice through a Health- Based Lens

California's Juvenile Justice Continuum Post SB823 Realignment

October 11, 2023



What Drives OYCR?

OUR VISION

We envision a healthy California that enables all youth to be responsible, thriving, and engaged members of our communities.

OUR MISSION

Promote trauma responsive, culturally informed services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system that support the youths' successful transition into adulthood.

A New Approach to Support Court-Involved Youth

The Goals of Senate Bill 823

- Close the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as of 6/30/2023
- Local facilities now house youth up to the age of 25
- Sex Offender Registration for youths is no longer required
- Established the **Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)** within the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)



Developmental Model of Juvenile Justice



Structure

- Education & Vocational experiences
- Skill building
- Held accountable in a developmentally informed way



Engaged

- Family/supportive adults
- Prosocial peers
- Community supports



Empowered

- Autonomous decision making
- Critical thinking
- Self-efficacy

The Developmental Paradigm

Developmental paradigm: Adolescents are different from adults. These differences have important implications for the criminal legal system.

Some examples of key differences include:

- Behaviors driven by immaturity
- Decision Making
- Thinking and reasoning
- Capacity for change
- Peer influence

If we understand how adolescents are different than adults...we can more effectively adapt the juvenile legal system.

Socio-emotional incentive processing system

Heightened during adolescence

Sensitivity to rewards

Impulsivity

Risk taking

Sensitivity to peer influence

Emotional arousal

Cognitive control system

Matures later into adulthood

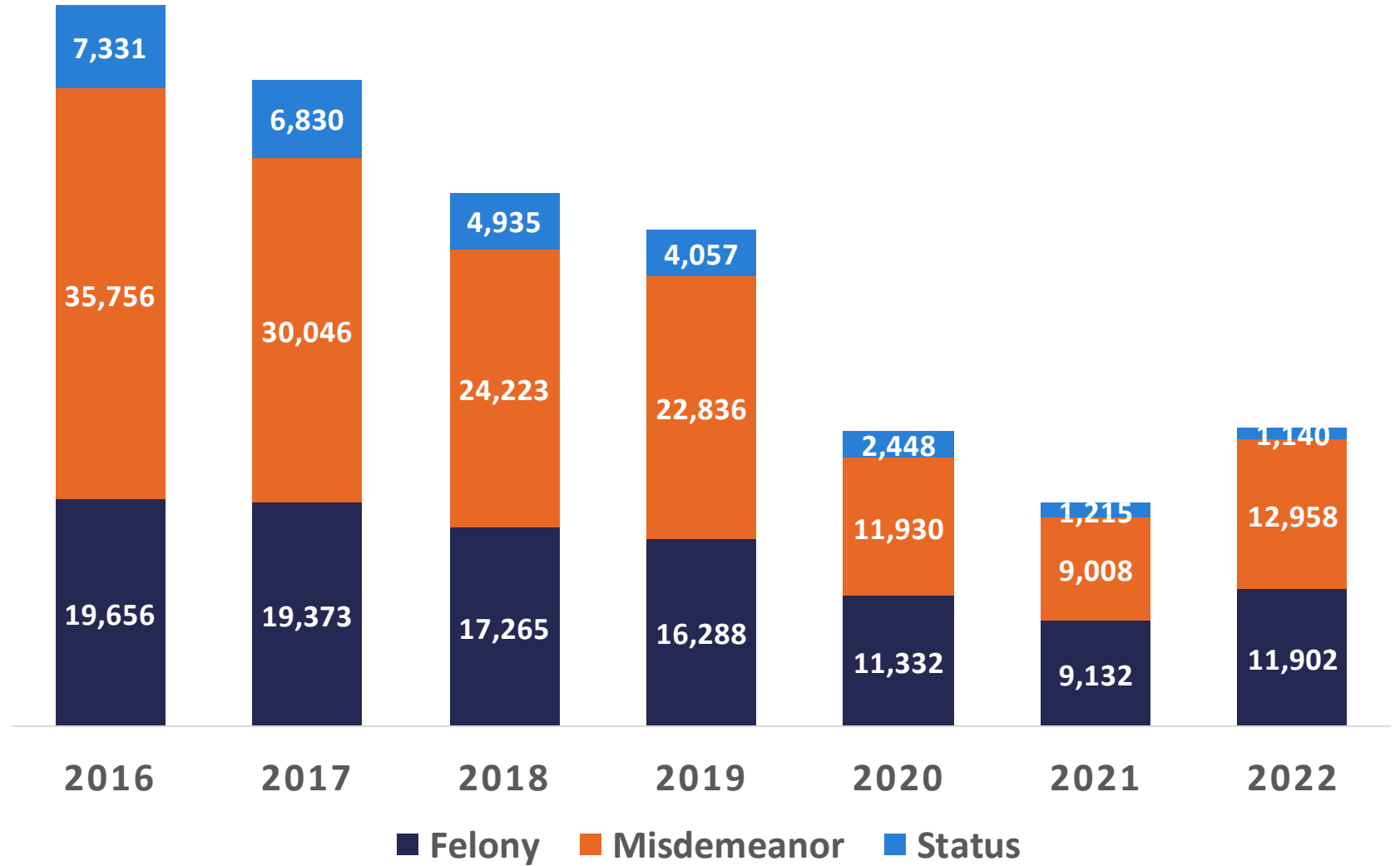
Consider consequences of actions

Plan for the future

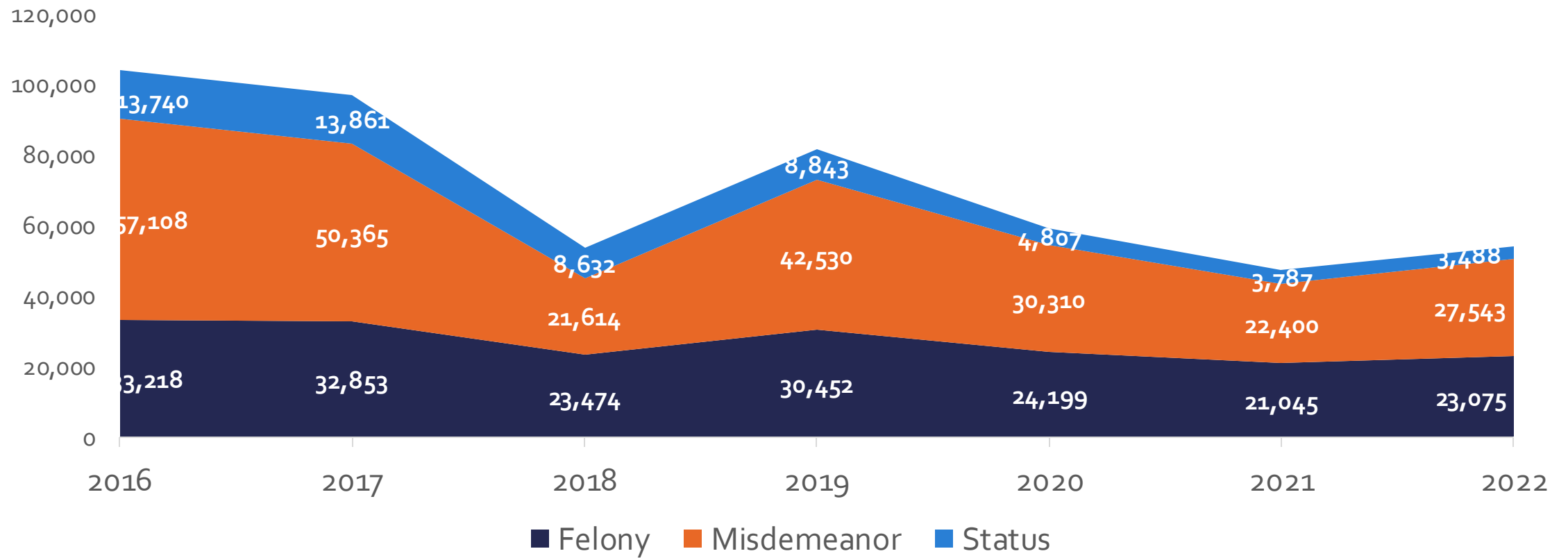
Impulse control

Emotion regulation

Juvenile Arrests California 2016-2022*



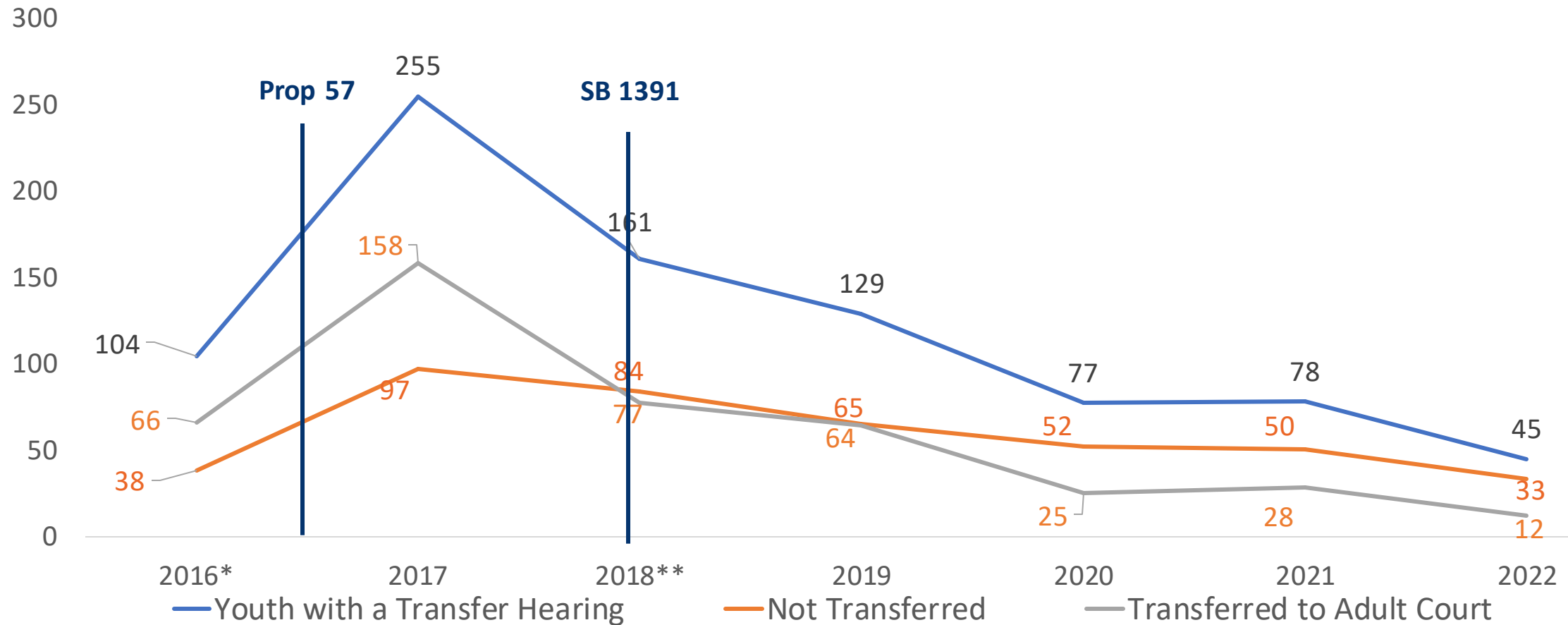
*California, Office of the Attorney General. (2010). Juvenile justice in California 2016-2022 [Series]. See <https://oag.ca.gov/cjsc/pubs#juvenileJustice> Data from Monthly Arrest and Citation Register (MACR) database. If a person is arrested for multiple offenses, the MACR selects only the most serious offense based on the severity of possible punishment.



Juvenile Referrals to Probation in California 2016-2022*

*California, Office of the Attorney General. (2010). Juvenile justice in California 2016-2021 [Series]. See <https://oag.ca.gov/cjsc/pubs#juvenileJustice>

Trend of Youth Facing Adult Court – 2016-2022



* Prop 57 started midyear

**SB 1391

****California, Office of the Attorney General. (2010). Juvenile justice in California 2016-2022 [Series]. See <https://oag.ca.gov/cjsc/pubs#juvenileJustice>

Who are the youth?



Cross over youth



Youth known to government systems like child welfare and MH



Impoverished neighborhoods



Not middle or upper class



School push out



Disproportionately Latinx, Black, and Native American



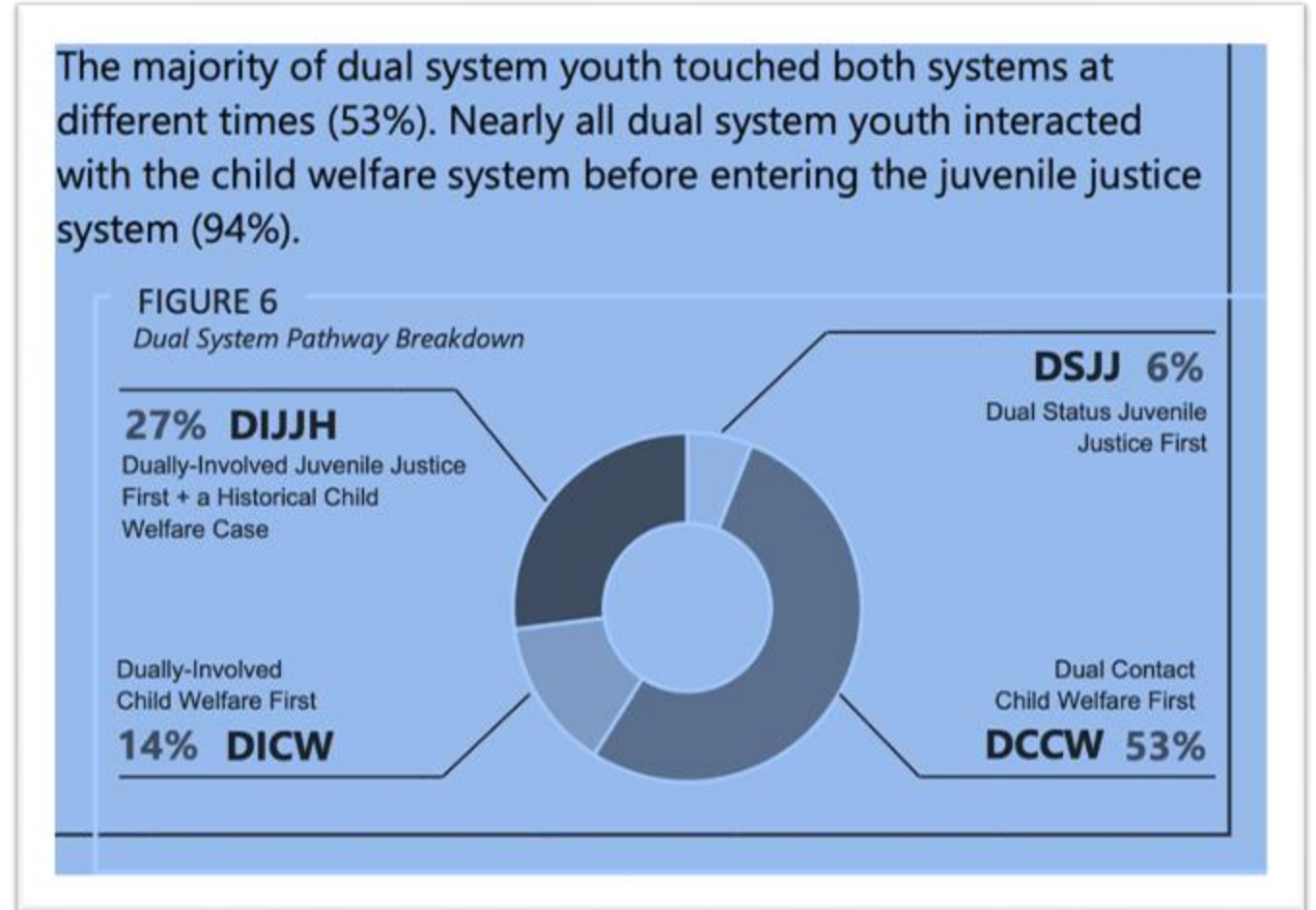
Access to housing, counseling, basic needs, positive role models is limited



Often victims of crime, child abuse and neglect prior to the offense

Intersection of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

- Dually Involved Youth: Youth who have interacted with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems
- Many youth referred to probation have also had contact with child welfare
- For example, 83% of justice involved youth in LA county had first been involved in the child welfare system.
- **Those with the most extensive child welfare involvement were at greatest risk for JJ Detention and subsequent recidivism.**



Source: Children's Data Network (2021)

Changing the Frame

ASSUMPTIONS	PRIMARY LENS		
	Youth as Victim	Youth as Villain	Youth as Resource
Origins of Most Delinquent Behavior	Symptom of underlying disturbance	Anti-social impulses, lack of restraint due to permissiveness and the absence of punishment	Normative response to adolescent needs for status, belonging, power & excitement, lack of empathy
How Delinquent Youth Compare with Other Adolescents	Fundamentally different in psychological and emotional makeup	Fundamentally different motivations and impulses toward deviant behavior	Largely similar to other adolescents but with fewer social assets
Delinquent Youth Capacity for Behavior Change	Incapable of conventional behavior without therapeutic interventions	Incapable of conventional behavior without strict discipline and the threat of punishment	Inherently capable of conventional behavior with sufficient access to supports and pro-social opportunities
Principal Intervention Strategy	Individual or family-based therapeutic treatment	Deterrence and retributive punishment	Skill development, attachment and engagement
Role of Treatment	Primary	Secondary	Secondary
Risks of Treatment	Could fail to address underlying cause(s)	Could delay or impede deterrence	Could introduce stigma or harm—i.e., iatrogenic effects

THE OMBUDSPERSON CAN HELP!

HAVE A QUESTION OR CONCERN WITH HOW YOU ARE BEING TREATED OR THE CONDITIONS OF A JUVENILE JUSTICE FACILITY?

CALL THE OMBUDSPERSON!

WHAT IS AN OMBUDSPERSON?

A person whose job it is to help you if you are in a juvenile justice facility in California and need help to solve problems with how you are being treated.



THE OMBUDSPERSON WILL:

- Keep the things you discuss confidential.
- Help try to solve the problem.
- Help you understand your rights.
- Answer your questions.

THE OMBUDSPERSON CANNOT:

- Give legal advice or change court orders.
- Investigate complaints about attorneys or judges.

THE PROCESS:

- You call or email us about a problem.
- The Ombuds person will speak with you to get information about the problem.
- The Ombuds person will do research and may investigate the complaint and attempt to resolve the problem.
- The Ombuds person will follow up with you.

The Ombuds person is an independent problem-solver responsible for investigating complaints and attempting to resolve them for the people involved. As a youth in a juvenile justice facility, you have the right to ask a question or file a complaint with the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Ombuds person if your rights have been violated or ignored or you are concerned about the condition of the facility you are in. You cannot be punished or threatened for making a complaint. If you are not sure how we can help, please call.

GET IN TOUCH!



1-844-402-1880



OYCRombuds@chhs.ca.gov



OYCR Ombuds person
1215 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Committees and Workgroups

CWC Youth Justice Committee

Youth Advisory Board*

Listening Sessions

Probation

Youth

Community

CBO Capacity Development Workgroup

OYCR Education Advisory Committee

Restorative Justice Advisory Committee*

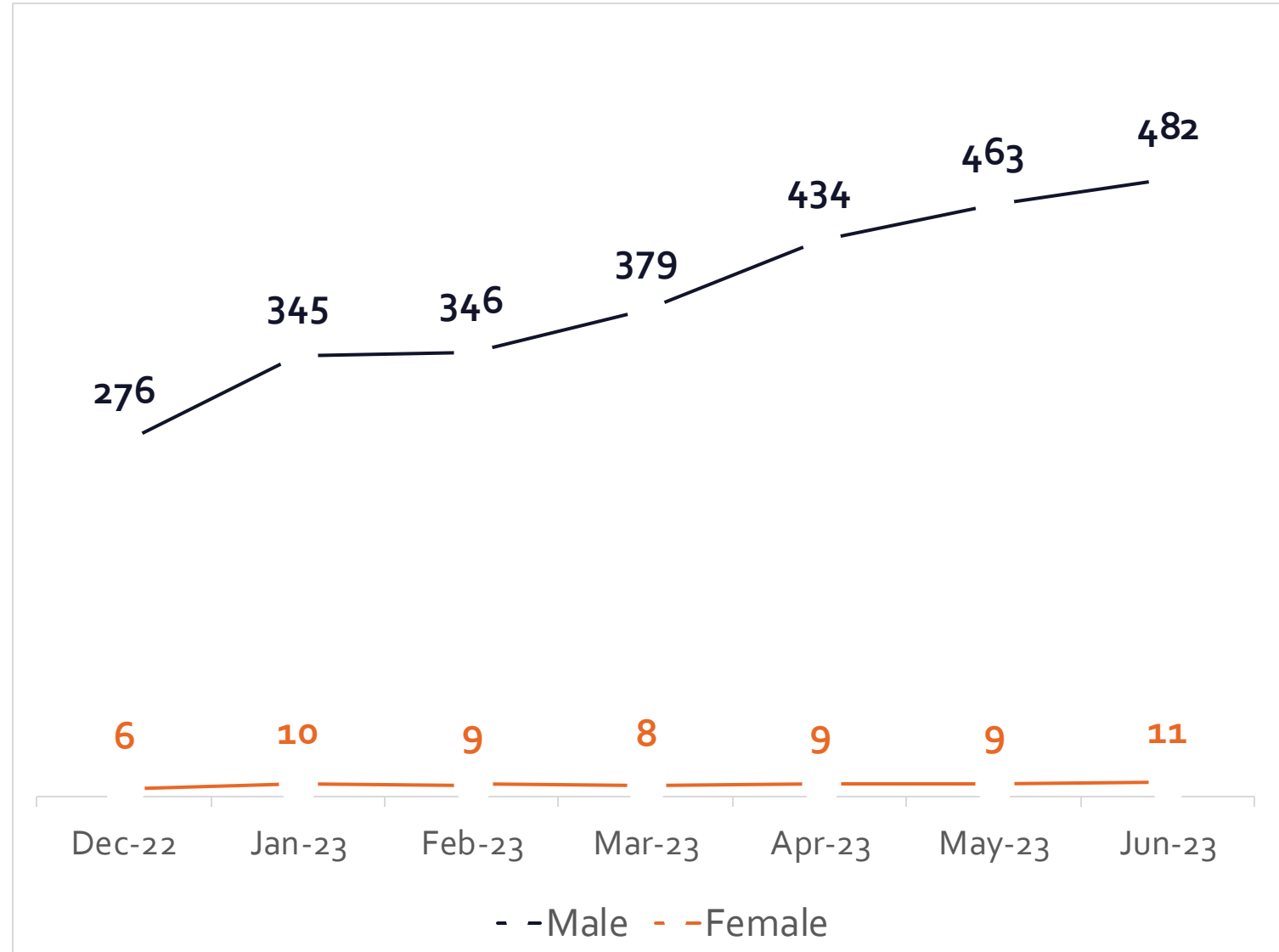
Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs) in California





As of March 2023, there were 45 facilities with SYTF programs within 36 counties. Yuba County has a physical facility with a tri-county agreement with Colusa and Sutter Counties.

Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF)



Immediate Opportunities

- Facilities design softening to a more trauma informed setting and adapting to longer commitments
- Special populations
 - Mental health needs
 - Youth who have committed sex offenses
 - Girls
- Education and programming for transition-aged youth
- Defining and identifying less restrictive programs



OYCR

Key OYCR Initiatives



Education Leading the Way

What We're Working On

- Special Education
- AB 1354 – Transition Plans
- SB 114 – \$80 Million for the County Offices of Education
- OYCR COE Needs Survey
- Rising Scholars
- Prison Education Project
- OYCR Education Advisory Committee

Additional OYCR Initiatives & Projects

- California Tribal Families Coalition – listening sessions and trainings
- Family engagement services for youth at Pine Grove Conservation Camp with ARC
- Evidence-Based Program compendium with RAND
- Ombudsperson Division Publications, inclusive of the Youth Bill of Rights
- Funding opportunities released:
 - Community-based organization capacity building
 - Intensive transitional services for youth with acute mental/behavioral health needs
 - Less restrictive program innovation funding opportunity
 - Attorney Stakeholder training funds to implement SB823

Ending the Incarceration of Girls & Gender-Expansive Youth

Partnership with OYCR, [Vera Institute of Justice](#), and four California counties – Imperials, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Diego – to launch the End Girls' Incarceration in California Action Network

California accounts for roughly 13 percent of girls' long-term commitments nationally.

Addressing the disparities that drive girls' incarceration is an urgent matter of race and gender equity. Girls and gender expansive youth of color—particularly Black, Native American, and Latina youth—have largely been left out of juvenile justice reforms.

How One California County Is Ending Girls' Incarceration

Santa Clara County Serves as a Model for California—And the Country

[Nazish Dholakia](#) Senior Writer

Apr 25, 2023



AB 2083 System of Care

- AB 2083 predated SB 823, so there was no State-level department or office focused on youth in the justice system when first brought together
- County Probation was to be included in local ILT composition; CPOC is active in some statewide committees
- **OYCR is now participating in State-level directors, steering committee, and complex care groups**
- Cross-system data sharing challenges (lack of unique identifier for youth in justice system)

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative

The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative was announced in July 2021 with a \$4.4B investment to enhance, expand and redesign the systems that support behavioral health for children and youth.

Funding opportunities:
<https://cybhi.chhs.ca.gov/>



California Initiatives Related to Children's Behavioral Health

- Behavioral Health Task Force
- Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP)
- ACES Aware Initiative (Office of the Surgeon General)
- CalAIM (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal)
- Complex Care Steering Committee (Dept. of Social Services)
- Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health
- Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI) Justice and System Involved Youth Program
- California Healthcare Modernization (2024)



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Thank you!

Reach out: oycr@chhs.ca.gov